

I CLAIM:

1           1. A protective display holder for a flat item having thickness and peripheral  
2 dimensions, the holder comprising the combination of:

3                   a substantially rigid base having a first edge and an opposite second  
4 edge, said base including a flat top surface and a recess from said top surface  
5 for receiving the flat item;

6                   a substantially rigid cover having a first edge and an opposite second  
7 edge, said cover including a flat bottom surface;

8                   retaining means adjacent to said first edge of said base and to said first  
9 edge of said cover for releasably retaining said bottom surface to said top  
10 surface in the vicinity of said first edges;

11                  a first magnetic member affixed to said base adjacent to said second edge  
12 thereof; and

13                  a second magnetic member affixed to said cover adjacent to said second  
14 edge thereof, said first and second magnetic members magnetically attracted to  
15 each other for urging said bottom surface of said cover against said top surface  
16 of said base in the vicinity of said second edges.

- 1           2. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein:  
2                   at least one of said cover and said base is transparent.
- 1           3. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein:  
2                   said recess has depth and peripheral dimensions equal to or greater than  
3                   the respective thickness and peripheral dimensions of the flat item.
- 1           4. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein:  
2                   one of said first and second magnetic members comprises a magnet.
- 1           5. The holder according to Claim 4, wherein:  
2                   the other of said first and second magnetic members comprises a magnet.
- 1           6. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein said retaining means includes:  
2                   a wall along said first edge of said base, said wall including at least one  
3                   aperture; and  
4                   at least one projection along said first edge of said cover for being  
5                   received by said at least one aperture.

1           7. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein said retaining means includes:  
2                 a third magnetic member affixed to said base adjacent to said first edge  
3 thereof; and  
4                 a fourth magnetic member affixed to said cover adjacent to said first  
5 edge thereof, said third and fourth magnetic members magnetically attracted to  
6 each other for urging said bottom surface of said cover against said top surface  
7 of said base in the vicinity of said first edges.

1           8. The holder according to Claim 7,  
2 wherein:  
3                 said fourth magnetic member includes an end portion projecting from  
4 said bottom of said cover;  
5                 said third magnetic member is recessed from said top surface of said  
6 base; and  
7 further including:  
8                 an indentation in said top surface aligned with said third magnetic  
9 member for receiving said end portion of said second magnetic member.

1           9. The holder according to Claim 8,

2    wherein:

3                   said second magnetic member includes an end portion projecting from  
4    said bottom surface of said cover;

5                   said first magnetic member is recessed from said top surface of said  
6    base; and

7    further including:

8                   an indentation is said top surface aligned with said first magnetic  
9    member for receiving said end portion of said second magnetic member.

1       10. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein said retaining means includes:

2                   a hinge pivotally securing said base and said cover along said first edges.

1       11. The holder according to Claim 10, wherein:

2                   said hinge comprises a flexible tape affixed to said first edge of said base  
3    and to said first edge of said cover.

1           12. The holder according to Claim 1,

2    wherein:

3                   one of said first and second magnetic members includes an end portion  
4           projecting from a corresponding one of said top and bottom surfaces;

5                   the other of said first and second magnetic members is recessed from a  
6           corresponding one of said top and bottom surfaces; and

7    further including:

8                   an indentation in the other of said top and bottom surfaces aligned with  
9           said other of said first and second magnetic members for receiving said end  
10          portion of said one of said first and second magnetic members.

1           13. The holder according to Claim 1,

2    wherein:

3                   said second magnetic member includes an end portion projecting from  
4           said bottom surface of said cover;

5                   said first magnetic member is recessed from said top surface of said  
6           base; and

7    further including:

8                   an indentation in said top surface aligned with said first magnetic  
9           member for receiving said end portion of said second magnetic member.

1           14. The holder according to Claim 1, including:

2                   at least one protrusion on one of said top and bottom surfaces in the  
3           vicinity of said second edge thereof; and

4                   at least one indentation in the other of said top and bottom surfaces for  
5           receiving said at least one protrusion when said first magnetic member is in  
6           registration with said second magnetic member.

1           15. The holder according to Claim 1, including:

2                   a raised collar on one of said top and bottom surfaces about a  
3           corresponding one of said first and second magnetic members; and

4                   an indentation in from the other of said top and bottom surfaces about a  
5           corresponding one of said first and second magnetic members for matingly  
6           receiving said collar.

1           16. The holder according to Claim 15, wherein:

2                   the configuration of each of said collar and said indentation is an oval  
3           with its major diameter parallel to said second edge corresponding thereto.

1           17. The holder according to Claim 1, including:

2                   a raised collar on said top surface of said base about said first magnet;  
3           and

4                   an indentation in said bottom surface of said cover about said second  
5           magnetic member for matingly receiving said collar.

1        18. The holder according to Claim 17, wherein:  
2                each of said collar and said indentation describes an oval with its major  
3        diameter parallel to said second edges.

1        19. The holder according to Claim 18, including:  
2                a finger notch along at least one of said second edges.

1        20. The holder according to Claim 1, wherein said base comprises:  
2                a first flat panel including a bore through a surface thereof for affixing  
3        said first magnetic member; and  
4                a second flat panel affixed to said surface of said first panel, said second  
5        panel having thickness equal to the depth of said recess and an opening  
6        therethrough of peripheral dimensions equal to the peripheral dimensions of said  
7        recess, said second panel including an aperture therethrough aligned with said  
8        bore in said first panel.

1        21. The holder according to Claim 7, wherein said base comprises:  
2                a first flat panel including bores through a surface thereof for  
3        respectively affixing said first and third magnetic members; and  
4                a second flat panel affixed to said surface of said first flat panel, said  
5        second panel having thickness equal to the depth of said recess and an opening  
6        therethrough of peripheral dimensions equal to the peripheral dimensions of said  
7        recess, said second panel including apertures therethrough respectively aligned  
8        with said bores in said first panel.

1           22. The holder according to Claim 21, wherein:  
2                   said cover and said first flat panel are transparent.

1           23. The holder according to Claim 22, wherein:  
2                   said second flat panel is opaque.



1           24. A protective display holder for a flat item having thickness and peripheral  
2 dimensions, the holder comprising the combination of:

3                   a substantially rigid base having a first edge and an opposite second  
4 edge, said base including a flat top surface and a recess from said top surface  
5 for receiving the flat item;

6                   a substantially rigid cover having a first edge and an opposite second  
7 edge, said cover including a flat bottom surface;

8                   a first magnetic member affixed to said base adjacent to said second edge  
9 thereof, and a second magnetic member affixed to said cover adjacent to said  
10 second edge thereof, said first and second magnetic members magnetically  
11 attracted to each other for urging said bottom surface of said cover against said  
12 top surface of said base in the vicinity of said second edges; and

13                   a third magnetic member affixed to said base adjacent to said first edge  
14 thereof, and a fourth magnetic member affixed to said cover adjacent to said  
15 first edge thereof, said third and fourth magnetic members magnetically  
16 attracted to each other for urging said bottom surface of said cover against said  
17 top surface of said base in the vicinity of said first edges.

1           25. The holder according to Claim 24,

2    wherein:

3                   one of said third and fourth magnetic members includes an end portion  
4           projecting from a corresponding one of said top and bottom surfaces;

5                   the other of said third and fourth magnetic members is recessed from a  
6           corresponding one of said top and bottom surfaces; and

7    further including:

8                   an indentation in the other of said top and bottom surfaces aligned with  
9           said other of said third and fourth magnetic members for receiving said end  
10          portion of said one of said third and fourth magnetic members.

1           26. The holder according to Claim 25,

2    wherein:

3                   one of said first and second magnetic members includes an end portion  
4           projecting from a corresponding one of said top and bottom surfaces;

5                   the other of said first and second magnetic members is recessed from a  
6           corresponding one of said top and bottom surfaces; and

7    further including:

8                   an indentation in the other of said top and bottom surfaces aligned with  
9           said other of said first and second magnetic members for receiving said end  
10          portion of said one of said first and second magnetic members.

1           27. The holder according to Claim 24, wherein:  
2                   at least one of said first and second magnetic members is a magnet; and  
3                   at least one of said third and fourth magnetic members is a magnet.

1           28. The holder according to Claim 24,  
2 wherein:  
3                   said fourth magnetic member includes an end portion projecting from  
4                   said bottom of said cover;  
5                   said third magnetic member is recessed from said top surface of said  
6                   base; and  
7 further including:  
8                   an indentation in said top surface aligned with said third magnetic  
9                   member for receiving said end portion of said fourth magnetic member.

1           29. The holder according to Claim 28, wherein:  
2                   said second magnetic member includes an end surface substantially flush  
3                   with the bottom surface of said cover; and  
4                   said first magnetic member includes an end surface substantially flush  
5                   with the top surface of said base.

1           30. The holder according to Claim 28,  
2    wherein:  
3                said second magnetic member includes an end portion projecting from  
4           said bottom surface of said cover;  
5                said first magnetic member is recessed from said top surface of said  
6           base; and  
7    further including:  
8                an indentation in said top surface aligned with said first magnetic  
9           member for receiving said end portion of said second magnetic member.

1           31. The holder according to Claim 30, wherein:  
2                said recess has depth and peripheral dimensions equal to or greater than  
3           the respective thickness and peripheral dimensions of the flat item.

1           32. The holder according to Claim 30, including:  
2                a finger notch along at least one of said second edges.

1           33. The holder according to Claim 30, wherein:  
2                at least one of said first and second magnetic members is a magnet; and  
3                at least one of said third and fourth magnetic members is a magnet.

1           34. The holder according to Claim 30, wherein:  
2                each of said magnetic members is a magnet.

1           35. The holder according to Claim 30, wherein said base comprises:  
2                   a first flat panel including bores through a surface thereof for  
3           respectively affixing said first and third magnetic members; and  
4                   a second flat panel affixed to said surface of said first flat panel, said  
5           second panel having thickness equal to the depth of said recess and an opening  
6           therethrough of peripheral dimensions equal to the peripheral dimensions of said  
7           recess, said second panel including apertures therethrough respectively aligned  
8           with said bores in said first panel and for respectively receiving said end  
9           portions of said second and fourth magnetic members affixed to said cover.

1           36. The holder according to Claim 35, wherein:  
2                   said cover and said first flat panel are transparent.

1           37. The holder according to Claim 36, wherein:  
2                   said second flat panel is opaque.

1           38. A protective display holder for a flat item having thickness and peripheral  
2 dimensions, the holder comprising the combination of:

3                   a substantially rigid base having a first edge and an opposite second  
4 edge, said base including a flat top surface and a recess from said top surface  
5 for receiving the flat item;

6                   a substantially rigid cover having a first edge and an opposite second  
7 edge, said cover including a flat bottom surface;

8                   a wall along said first edge of said base, said wall including at least one  
9 aperture;

10                  at least one projection along said first edge of said cover for being  
11 received by said at least one aperture; and

12                  a first magnetic member affixed to said base adjacent to said second edge  
13 thereof, and a second magnetic member affixed to said cover adjacent to said  
14 second edge thereof, said first and second magnetic members magnetically  
15 attracted to each other for urging said bottom surface of said cover against said  
16 top surface of said base in the vicinity of said second edges.

1           39. The holder according to Claim 38, wherein:

2                   said recess has depth and peripheral dimensions equal to or greater than  
3 the respective thickness and peripheral dimensions of the flat item.

1           40. The holder according to Claim 38, wherein:

2                   at least one of said cover and said base is transparent.

1       41. The holder according to Claim 38, including:  
2               at least one protrusion on one of said top and bottom surfaces in the  
3       vicinity of said second edge thereof; and  
4               at least one indentation in the other of said top and bottom surfaces for  
5       receiving said at least one protrusion when said first magnetic member is in  
6       registration with said second magnetic member.

1       42. The holder according to Claim 38, including:  
2               a raised collar on one of said top and bottom surfaces about a  
3       corresponding one of said first and second magnetic members; and  
4               an indentation in from the other of said top and bottom surfaces about a  
5       corresponding one of said first and second magnetic members for matingly  
6       receiving said collar.

1       43. The holder according to Claim 42, wherein:  
2               the configuration of each of said collar and said indentation is an oval  
3       with its major diameter parallel to said second edge corresponding thereto.

1       44. The holder according to Claim 38, including:  
2               a raised collar on said top surface of said base about said first magnet;  
3       and  
4               an indentation in said bottom surface of said cover about said second  
5       magnetic member for matingly receiving said collar.

- 1        45. The holder according to Claim 44, wherein:
- 2                each of said collar and said indentation describes an oval with its major
- 3        diameter parallel to said second edges.
- 1        46. The holder according to Claim 45, including:
- 2                a finger notch along at least one of said second edges.



1           47. A protective display holder for a flat item having thickness and peripheral  
2 dimensions, the holder comprising the combination of:  
3                 a substantially rigid base having a first edge and an opposite second  
4 edge, said base including a flat top surface and a recess from said top surface  
5 for receiving the flat item;  
6                 a substantially rigid cover having a first edge and an opposite second  
7 edge, said cover including a flat bottom surface;  
8                 a hinge pivotally securing said base and said cover along said first edges;  
9 and  
10                a first magnetic member affixed to said base adjacent to said second edge  
11 thereof, and a second magnetic member affixed to said cover adjacent to said  
12 second edge thereof, said first and second magnetic members magnetically  
13 attracted to each other for urging said bottom surface of said cover against said  
14 top surface of said base in the vicinity of said second edges.

1           48. The holder according to Claim 47, wherein:  
2                 said hinge comprises a flexible tape affixed to said first edge of said base  
3 and to said first edge of said cover.

1           49. A protective display holder for a flat item having thickness and peripheral  
2 dimensions, the holder comprising the combination of:

3                   a substantially rigid base having a first edge and an opposite second  
4 edge, said base including a flat top surface and a recess from said top surface  
5 for receiving the flat item;

6                   a substantially rigid cover having a first edge and an opposite second  
7 edge, said cover including a flat bottom surface facing said top surface and said  
8 recess, said bottom surface releasably retained to said top surface in the vicinity  
9 of said first edges;

10                  a first magnetic member affixed to said base adjacent to said second edge  
11 thereof; and

12                  a second magnetic member affixed to said cover adjacent to said second  
13 edge thereof, said first and second magnetic members magnetically attracted to  
14 each other for urging said bottom surface of said cover against said top surface  
15 of said base in the vicinity of said second edges.

1           50. The holder according to Claim 49, wherein:

2                   said recess has depth and peripheral dimensions equal to or greater than  
3 the respective thickness and peripheral dimensions of the flat item.

1           51. The holder according to Claim 49, wherein:

2                   at least one of said cover and said base is transparent.

1       52. The holder according to Claim 49, wherein:  
2               one of said first and second magnetic members comprises a magnet.

1       53. The holder according to Claim 52, wherein:  
2               the other of said first and said second magnetic members comprises a  
3 magnet.

1       54. The holder according to Claim 49, including:  
2               at least one protrusion on one of said top and bottom surfaces in the  
3 vicinity of said second edge thereof; and  
4               at least one indentation in the other of said top and bottom surfaces  
5 releasably receiving said at least one protrusion.

1       55. The holder according to Claim 49, including:  
2               a raised collar on one of said top and bottom surfaces about a  
3 corresponding one of said first and second magnetic members; and  
4               an indentation in from the other of said top and bottom surfaces about a  
5 corresponding one of said first and second magnetic members, said indentation  
6 matingly receiving said collar.

1       56. The holder according to Claim 55, wherein:  
2               the configuration of each of said collar and said indentation is an oval  
3 with its major diameter parallel to said second edge corresponding thereto.

1           57. The holder according to Claim 49, including:

2                   a raised collar on said top surface of said base about said first magnet;

3           and

4                   an indentation in said bottom surface of said cover about said second

5           magnetic member, said indentation matingly receiving said collar.

1           58. The holder according to Claim 57, wherein:

2                   each of said collar and said indentation describes an oval with its major

3           diameter parallel to said second edges.

1           59. The holder according to Claim 49, including:

2                   a finger notch along at least one of said second edges.

1           60. The holder according to Claim 49,

2    wherein:

3                   one of said first and second magnetic members includes an end portion

4           projecting from a corresponding one of said top and bottom surfaces;

5                   the other of said first and second magnetic members is recessed from a

6           corresponding one of said top and bottom surfaces; and

7    further including:

8                   an indentation in the other of said top and bottom surfaces aligned with

9           said other of said first and second magnetic members, said indentation receiving

10          said end portion of said one of said first and second magnetic members.

1           61. The holder according to Claim 49,

2    wherein:

3                   said second magnetic member includes an end portion projecting from

4           said bottom surface of said cover;

5                   said first magnetic member is recessed from said top surface of said

6           base; and

7    further including:

8                   an indentation in said top surface aligned with said first magnetic

9           member, said indentation receiving said end portion of said second magnetic

10          member.

1           62. The holder according to Claim 49, wherein

2    said base comprises:

3                   a first flat panel including a bore through a surface thereof for affixing

4           said first magnetic member; and

5                   a second flat panel affixed to said surface of said first panel, said second

6           panel having thickness equal to the depth of said recess and an opening

7           therethrough of peripheral dimensions equal to the peripheral dimensions of said

8           recess, said second panel including an aperture therethrough aligned with said

9           bore in said first panel.

1           63. A protective display holder for a flat item having thickness and peripheral  
2 dimensions, the holder comprising the combination of:

3                   a substantially rigid base having a flat top surface and a recess from said  
4 top surface, said recess having depth and peripheral dimensions equal to or  
5 greater than the respective thickness and peripheral dimensions of the flat item;

6                   a substantially rigid cover having a flat bottom surface; and

7                   at least one magnetic member affixed to said base and at least one  
8 magnetic member affixed to said cover and magnetically attracted to said at least  
9 one magnetic member affixed to said base for urging said bottom surface of said  
10 cover against said top surface of said base.

1           64. The holder according to Claim 63, wherein:

2                   said at least one magnetic member affixed to said base comprises at least  
3 one magnet.

1           65. The holder according to Claim 63, wherein:

2                   said at least one magnetic member affixed to said cover comprises at  
3 least one magnet.

1           66. The holder according to Claim 65, wherein:

2                   said at least one magnetic member affixed to said base comprises at least  
3 one magnet.

- 1           67. The holder according to Claim 63, wherein:
- 2                   at least one of said cover and said base is transparent.